Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 20, and replace it with the following replacement paragraph:

The number of different σ values N does not generally have to be large. As the value of σ determines which size of element is selected by the filtering operation for autofocusing, small changes in σ will not usually change the determined focus point very much (see Fig. 5). Hence, widely spaced σ can be used. Secondly, it not desirable for the filter to select large or small elements of the image which are not related to the desired focused object. Hence, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention it is preferred if the range of the values of σ is settable [[y]] <u>by</u> the operator. In this way, the operator has some control over what elements of the image will be selected for autofocusing.